

Earl W. Mallick  
13 Lands End Way  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U. S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

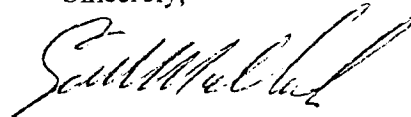
Dear General Ashcroft:

I am writing, as a long time admirer of yours as well as a small shareholder in Microsoft, to voice my support for the federal settlement with Microsoft. I believe that Microsoft has earned a position of leadership in the technology sector through its focus on excellence. It has consistently and continually provided its customers with innovative products. I feel that it is improper to stifle creativity by permitting those less innovative companies to go to the federal government to file lawsuits as a substitute for their own lack of imagination, and I therefore believe that the case against Microsoft is without merit.

The time has come to finally resolve this lawsuit to let Microsoft concentrate on doing what they do best – developing innovative products. Microsoft has made plenty of concessions. The government should not be wasting funds on this lawsuit when we need to spend more on fighting terrorism. The third-party oversight committee which Microsoft has agreed to will keep everybody honest. Please see that the Department of Justice recognizes the importance of finalizing this settlement and does so soon.

I can't close this letter without commending you on the outstanding work you are doing on the terrorism front. May God continue to bless you, the President, and all of the others working to preserve our way of life.

Sincerely,



Earl W. Mallick

Cc: Senator Strom Thurmond

*From Earl W. Mallick, January 26, 2002  
FAX 1-843-671-6201*